

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Air Quality

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

Central and Eastern Alaska #2019-F13

Saturday, June 29, 2019

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Tanana Flats, from Tanana to Delta Junction, the Yukon Valley, and Tok through Northway is experiencing degraded air quality due to wildfire smoke from numerous fires throughout Central and Eastern Alaska.

VALID TIME: Saturday June 29, 2019 11:00 PM to Monday July 1, 2019 4:00 PM, advisory will be issued until end of the event.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Saturday June 29, 2019 4:00 PM, if needed.

ADVISORY: A high pressure system is dominating the region. Winds at the surface will be more of a diurnal mountain wind pattern, smoke will be transported up the valleys during the day and settling at the base/low lying areas late night early morning. Intense surface heating in the flats will lift the smoke up into the gradient transport winds, which are out of the west for the next advisory period. A weak low will be moving through the region Sunday/Monday, with a chance of wetting rains. As soon as it moves through the high pressure will take hold again provide ample support for fire/smoke development. The southern portion of Eastern Alaska near Northway is not expected to see enough precipitation to tame the Boundary River or McArthur Creek fires. Air Quality will vary between **GOOD** and **VERY UNHEALTHY** depending on wind flow and proximity to the fires. **See the table below for more guidance on the Air Quality Categories and Cautionary Statements.**

Be aware that areas immediately downwind of any fire will experience **HAZARDOUS** levels of smoke. Generally, worse conditions occur overnight and during the early morning hours, as the atmosphere cools and brings smoke to the surface. During the day, surface heating will mix smoke and carry it upwards, temporarily improving air quality.

SMOKE AND PUBLIC IMPACT: This is an area forecast, and as such is a general forecast for portions of Southwestern Interior Alaska. Smoke intensity will vary depending on precise location and local wind flow patterns. Smoke concentrations will be such that they could impact public health at times. It is advised that travelers check local weather as smoke conditions may vary considerably from one locality to the next. The most recent weather observations may be found on National Weather Service's homepage at <https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/map/>. UAFSMOKE, Wildfire Smoke Prediction for Alaska can be accessed at <http://smoke.alaska.edu/PM25.html>

In smoke impacted areas, DEC advises people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.

The following table contains the cautionary statements for the Air Quality for Particle Pollution.

Air Quality Category	Cautionary Statements
Good	None
Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion
Very Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion
Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors

When air quality data is unavailable, the following **Air Quality Smoke Reference Guide** may be used to estimate air quality levels and potential health impacts:

Visibility	Air Quality
10+ miles	Good
6 - 9 miles	Moderate
3 - 5 miles	Unhealthy for sensitive groups
1.5 - 2.5 miles	Unhealthy
0.9 - 1.4 miles	Very Unhealthy
0.8 miles or less	Hazardous

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For information on this advisory, contact Mark Smith with the Division of Air Quality at 907-269-7676.

